



Jim Doyle
Governor

Helene Nelson
Secretary

State of Wisconsin

Department of Health and Family Services

**Important Information Regarding Prior Authorization
for Brand-Name SSRIs – Effective March 15, 2004.**

February 23, 2004

Dear Pharmacy Provider:

Effective for dates of service on and after March 15, 2004, Selective Serotonin Re-uptake Inhibitor (SSRI) drugs except generic fluoxetine will require prior authorization (PA) for Wisconsin Medicaid reimbursement.

The Wisconsin Medicaid Prior Authorization Advisory Committee comprised of physicians, pharmacists, advocates and consumers met and discussed SSRI drugs at three meetings. Based on the clinical information presented and discussed at those meetings, the Secretary of the Department of Health and Family Services has directed that all prescriptions for SSRI drugs except generic fluoxetine require PA.

PA for a brand-name SSRI will be granted if the patient:

- is currently stabilized on a brand-name SSRI;
- has tried and failed or had an adverse reaction to fluoxetine; or
- there is a clinical contraindication to starting with fluoxetine.

PA will be available through the Specialized Transmission Approval Technology (STAT) PA system. Pharmacies may begin requesting PA on March 1, 2004, for dates of service on and after March 15, 2004.

Attached is a worksheet you are encouraged use to facilitate the PA process and when calling the STAT-PA system. This is an optional form that patients, pharmacists and physicians may use to obtain or maintain clinical documentation supporting medical necessity of brand name SSRI drugs requiring PA. Providers must maintain all documentation, such as optional worksheets, that supports medical necessity and claim information in their records for a period not less than five years. Wisconsin Medicaid recommends providers maintain the related STAT-PA worksheet in their files. Documentation retained in other formats must be readily retrievable and available, if requested. This form is being made available to prescribers, pharmacies, and patients. The form can also be downloaded from our website at dhfs.wisconsin.gov/medicaid.

Since PA will be approved for patients currently stabilized on a brand name SSRI (i.e., grandfather clause) you may wish to obtain PA for patients currently on the brand name product ahead of time. Once you have identified your patients who are currently taking a brand name SSRI, you can submit the STAT-PA request beginning March 1, 2004, so there will be no delay in dispensing the drug when a patient comes in for a refill on or after March 15. PAs can be granted for up to 365 days regardless of the length of the prescription.

This option is being offered because of the high-volume of requests expected through STAT-PA with the addition of this new drug category. Where it is possible, please call the STAT-PA system in advance of March 15 or during its lowest volume time, which is after 5:00 p.m. The STAT-PA system is available from 8:00 a.m. to 11:45 p.m. seven days a week.

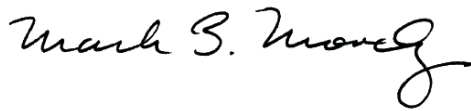
The SSRI drugs that will require PA are:

- Celexa
- Lexapro
- Paroxetine
- Paxil
- Paxil CR
- Pexeva
- Zoloft
- Prozac Weekly

This policy applies to Wisconsin Medicaid and BadgerCare fee-for-service (FFS) recipients and all SeniorCare participants. Medicaid Managed Care Organizations (MCO) must cover all the drugs covered by FFS but are allowed to place restrictions, such as PA, on those drugs. Therefore, Medicaid recipients who are in an MCO may have different PA requirements than FFS.

If you have additional questions, please call Provider Services at (800) 947-9627.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark B. Mowery". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "M" and "B".

Administrator

MBM:my
PA01053

Attachment



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